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Newsletter

Number 15

11 June 2010



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. Parents who support with virtues discussions at home - remember **COMMITMENT** is our current focus (let us know of any achievements so we can celebrate together).

.. parents who have volunteered to help out at next week's Year 4 to 6 Winter Sports Tournament.

People of the week

Well done the following children for demonstrating **commitment** in their lives over the past week..

.. Jessica-Lee for scoring 2 goals (her first ever goal) at soccer on Saturday. It was only her 4th game of soccer.

.. Joshua for scoring his first goal of the season.

.. Brooke - player of the day again!

Famine Money

A reminder Famine money was due at school by Friday 11 June. We have only received about 1/3 of the money. Please ensure kids are busy this weekend collecting final sponsor money and returned to the office on Monday. Thank you for your support.

Late Kids

A number of children are arriving late to school. It is so important that these children are properly prepared for class, that they learn the importance of being on time, and that the flow of lessons is not interrupted. If there is anything we can do to help with timely arrivals (we suggest children arrive at LEAST 10 minutes before 9:00 AM bell) please let us know. We are legally required to log all late arrivals in our Student Management System and to address consistent patterns of lateness. The co-operation of parents in this matter would be much appreciated - remember we are here to help if we can.

Some dates to pencil if you have not already done so

.. 15 June - Primary Winter Sports Tournament

.. 18 June - Portfolios home to parents

.. 28 and 29 June - Parent Interviews (please note school finishes at 2:30 on these days)



Michele Blagrove, Sales Consultant
Mobile 027 6100 303, After Hours 09 4335 735

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Focus on the Innovation Class

We are currently profiling some of the art works being produced by children in the innovation class. Parents are warmly invited to view some of these artworks currently on display in the office foyer. We will also profile these, one each week, in forthcoming newsletters.

This week our focus artist is Laura Martin. Laura has titled her art work "Beach Scene". Her motivation is summers spent at her favourite beach. Laura said the most difficult part of her work was creating the sand effect. She really enjoyed making this artwork and says she wouldn't do anything differently if doing this again. This is a most impressive artwork Laura - we can look at this and dream of summer - well done!

Portfolios

.. will be issued 18 June. Portfolios provide an opportunity for you to view samples of work in main learning areas and to compare these with samples gathered earlier in the year (or even in the previous year). Portfolios are NOT stand alone documents, impressions should be weighed against those gathered from Indicator Reports (issued earlier in the year), Data Reports (issued at interviews), Summative Reports (issued at the end of the year), as well as the anecdotal observations made throughout the year. Remember, the best impressions are those validated from multiple sources - this is where we get the truest picture of your child's strengths and needs.

So, when you receive your portfolio next week..

- .. **find a time to look through it WITH your child** - a special time and place free from distraction
- .. **celebrate what they do well** (especially ask them to walk you through their boast section - this is where they have included work they are particularly proud of)
- .. **take particular notice of progress** and praise them for this
- .. quietly **note down any questions or areas of concern** for later discussion with their teacher
- .. most of all, be positive, celebrate the gains and **have fun!**

Parent / Teacher Interviews - 28/29 June

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews if at all possible (children are not required unless requested by a teacher). The intention of mid-year interviews is to discuss portfolios (please remember to bring these with you), present and discuss achievement information, review progress and set targets moving forward. Mid year Data Reports will also be presented to you at interviews with any necessary explanations - you can then take these away with you.

- .. **Interview appointment forms** accompany this newsletter **for return next week.**
- .. **Confirmation of interview appointment times** will be sent home early in the week commencing 21 June. Please note that interviews will be **allocated on a first in basis** and so there is obvious benefit in returning forms early.

If you are unable to make the interview nights of 28 and 29 June please contact your child's teacher for an alternative time.

Early Buses

Please note that school finishes at 2:30 PM on 28 and 29 June with buses running around 30-40 minutes earlier than normal. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these slightly early closures.

My Learner Journey

At March interviews parents, teachers and children identified areas of special focus for inclusion on a Learner Journey sheet. Children have been working on these targets in the intervening period, and are now being asked to determine their next step. At the front of your child's portfolio you will find your child's Learner Journey Sheet. **Before interviews** could you please discuss these goals with your child and (in the column titled "By the end of year I will ..") **pencil in** the next step they might take in pursuit of this goal. Often goals need to be modified, or new goals set, and so this is the opportunity for this. In some cases you will find that your child has already pencilled in some thoughts - where this is the case, please feel free to make additions to the sheet. If needing ideas, or support, please contact us in the week before interviews.

Pubertal Change

Early notice that year 7 and 8 children will participate in a pubertal change unit during the period 19 to 30 July (first 2 weeks of term 3). Parents wanting information on this programme are invited to a discussion meeting with our year 7 and 8 teachers to be held in room 12.

Please phone the school office on Monday (or leave a message on the school answer phone) if you will be in attendance.

Pubertal Change Resource booklet – year 6 children

As in earlier years year 6 children will receive a resource booklet outlining the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. This is an excellent booklet which kids can flick through at their convenience and which parents can also use as the basis for discussion. These booklets will be handed out week beginning 21 June. If you would prefer to collect (or personally receive) your child's booklet please contact the school next week.

Rippa Rugby Tournament

Parents of year 5 and 6 children will have been advised that this tournament will now take place 25 June and 17 September. If you have not received a second consent form please contact the school office. Please return consents asap. Any questions please to Miss Bevin or Mrs Witte. We are very keen to hear from parents able to assist with lunchtime practices.

Senior Rockwall Day – now 30 June

Please ensure consents and money for the above event have been returned to school by early next week. Give us a call if you want to discuss payment arrangements.

International Schools Science Competition

Candidates sat this exam on Wednesday. Papers have been dispatched and we will be advised of results later in the year. Even though preparation for this test was left to families, we would still like to award certificates at (or nearer to) prize giving to validate and affirm the efforts of these children.

International Schools English and Maths Exams

A reminder other test dates are as follows .. English 3 August .. Maths 17 August.

The test preparation period for the English exam commenced this week (maths preparation period will commence week beginning 21 June). Children are asked to complete at LEAST one practice paper each week. Please help them to find a suitable time and place for sitting their test papers and ensure you mark these on completion. When these papers are returned to school children will be issued with their next practice paper. Teachers are working concurrently on papers in class. Exam questions are used as warm ups in classes and children will work on portions of these papers during class maths time. Candidates have been asked to negotiate with their teachers if homework loads are too heavy – it is possible for these practice papers to stand in lieu of other homework. Let us know if you need any help.

Request from Junior Syndicate

If anyone has spare long pants for 7 yr old boys and girls or spare underpants for 7-8 yr old girls for use in emergency, could you please deliver to Mrs Bruce or the office please. Thank you.

Request from Room 8

Before you know it Calf Club will soon be upon us. Room 8 needs your help so if you have any of the items listed below could you please please please leave them at the office or take them to Room 8. Thank you.

- Wool, stockings/pantyhose, clean, empty jars with lids (normal jam jar size)

School Lunches

If you would like a day off making lunches your children can order a sausage on Wednesday's for a \$1.00 and hot pies, sausage rolls and a drink for \$3.00 on Friday's, providing you order by Tuesday at the office.

Scholastic Book Club

Orders are due back at school on Friday 18th June.

SKIDS

Marcelle and Hannah will again be offering a fun filled Holiday Programme during the two week school break which starts July 5th. There will be options to book for full days, short days or even half days. Look out for the flyer due out soon or email/tel Marcelle for further info at Matarau@skids.co.nz 0278461724. Alternatively pop into the hall after school.



Community Notices

Lighthouse Ultimate Car Rally - 2nd July, 5.45pm to 8pm. For more info contact Jennie Clarke 4353890 or Liz Gardiner 021325671

For Sale - 5 yr old South Suffolk cross ewes - Quite possible in-lamb to a very handsome Coopworth Ram. \$70 each ono. Ph 4335607.

Farm Garage Sale - Moving overseas. From farm and garden tools to beds and kitchen allsorts. Sunday 4th July at 75 Miro Rd, Ruatangata, 10am to 3pm.

For Sale - Printer cartridges and toners available at Megabitz in Kamo from \$10.00. Ph 974 8059

Final Thoughts

Shortly we will be sharing a fair amount of information with you on your child's attainment and progress. When evaluating this information please remember..

- 1) Trends are always much more important than "one offs"
- 2) That impressions from one source of information should always be confirmed by impressions from at least one other source before conclusions are drawn
- 3) That by training and experience your child's teacher is the best person to explain achievement information and place this information in context
- 4) That it is normal for children to have periods of acceleration followed by periods where achievement seems to plateau
- 5) That there are innumerable skills that fall outside of any single test design and that these skills are important too - thus all single assessments / tests have severe limitations and should be treated accordingly.

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

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*Laura Martin's
"Beach Scene"*

**School Ball – Saturday 3rd July, School Hall, 7.00pm
Tickets available from the office, starting to sell fast.
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